

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6736

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, GR, CY, TU

SUBJ: NATOMIN: REPORT OF SYG ON ATCHING BRIEF ON GREEK-
TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: USNATO 6735

THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE TEXT OF THE REPORT OF THE SEC-GEN
IN HIS WATCHING BRIEF IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS (PO/74/156),
A DOCUMENT FOR ITEM II OF THE NAC MINISTERIAL AGENDA (REFTEL).

BEGIN TEXT:

PO/74/156

TO: PRMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COUNCIL)

FROM: SECRETARY GENERAL

GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS

SECRETARY GENERAL'S WATCHING BRIEF

ATTACHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL IS A REPORT
ON THE WATCHING BRIEF WHICH THE SECRETARY GENERAL RECEIVED FROM
MINISTERS AT THE MEETING HELD AT THE HAGUE ON 14TH MAY, 1964.

2. AS USUAL THIS REPORT WILL BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR
THE FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETING AS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT UNDER
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ITEM II.

(SIGNED) JOSEPH M.A.H. LUNS

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT ON HIS WATCHING BRIEF
TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN DECEMBER 1974

1. UNDER THE TERMS OF MY WATCHING BRIEF, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR DOING WHAT I CAN TO ENSURE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. IT WAS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT LAST SPRING, AS SOON AS THE FIRST SIGNS OF DISCORD APPEARED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, I EXPRESSED MY CONCERN TO THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVTS THROUGH THEIR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES. IT WAS A SOURCE OF SATISFACTION TO ME THAT THEY WERE THEN AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

2. THE CYPRUS CRISIS OF JULY CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE. THE ONLY POSSIBLE FORM OF ACTION BY THEN WAS TO TRY, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, TO CONTAIN ITS EFFECTS AND TO FIND A SPEEDY SOLUTION. THE MEASURES I TOOK WERE DIRECTED TO THIS END AND OPERATED AT TWO LEVELS. I INITIATED A PROCESS OF INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS IN THE COUNCIL. THE LATTER MADE REPEATED APPEALS FOR RESTRAINT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION MADE UNDER UNITED KINGDOM AUSPICES AND OFFERING TO DO ALL IT POSSIBLY COULD TO ASSIST WITH ANY NEW INITIATIVE. I, FOR MY PART, UNDER THE TERMS OF MY WATCHING BRIEF AND WHILE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT - ONE OF THE GUARANTOR POWERS - SENT SEVERAL URGENT MESSAGES TO THE ANKARA AND ATHENS GOVERNMENTS APPEALING TO THEM TO DEFUSE THE CONFRONTATION AND OFFERING TO VISIT THE TWO CAPITALS IF MY MEDIATION COULD BE OF ANY USE. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO TAKE UP MORE SPACE WITH DETAILS OF MY OWN ACTIVITIES OR THOSE OF THE COUNCIL IN THIS CONNECTION SINCE THEY ARE WELL KNOWN AND AMPLY RECORDED.

3. HOWEVER, I CANNOT BUT EXPRESS MY KEEN REGRET, AND EVEN A FEELING OF REAL DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ALL THESE PRESSING REPRESENTATIONS FAILED TO PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESULT, EVEN THOUGH THE CONTINUING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIED GOVERNMENTS COULD NOT FAIL TO HAVE VERY SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE ALLIANCE. I AM COMPELLED TO POINT OUT THAT IT IS HARD TO RECONCILE THESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATION SOLEMNLY REAFFIRMED IN THE OTTAWA DECLARATION, WHICH HAD BEEN SIGNED

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BARELY A MONTH BEFORE.

4. WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW IS TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE. THE WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE CONFRONTED WITH A GRAVE ECONOMIC CRISIS. THERE IS AN INCENDIARY SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS MORE ESSENTIAL THAN EVER FOR THE ALLIED COUNTRIES TO HELP ONE ANOTHER IF WE ARE TO FACE UP TO THESE DANGERS. THIS APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE INSTABILITY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE MUST HAVE PARTICULAR REGARD FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM WHICH PROTECTS OUR COUNTRIES, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF WHICH, HOWEVER, WILL BE COMMENSURATE WITH OUR SOLIDARITY.

5. THIS BEING SAID, THE TIME SEEMS RIPE FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION. THE MOST PROMISING APPROACH

SEEMS TO LIE IN DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES. I AM GLAD TO NOTE THAT THE LATTER ARE ALREADY MEETING REGULARLY. THIS COULD MAKE A GOOD CONTRIBUTION TO A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND GUARANTEEING THE SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS.

6. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT, IN THE SPIRIT OF MY WATCHING BRIEF, I REMAIN FULLY AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE PARTIES TO RENDER THEM ANY ASSISTANCE THEY MAY DESIRE. IN ANY CASE, I AM REMAINING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ALLIED COUNTRIES CONCERNED. DURING THIS SESSION, I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS BETWEEN THE MINISTERS OF THESE COUNTRIES SO AS TO PAVE THE WAY TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. THIS IS SOMETHING ALL THEIR ALLIES ARDENTLY DESIRE. END TEXT. BRUCE

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